



Republicans nominate Steve Scalise to be House speaker

By LISA MASCARO and
KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans nominated Rep. Steve Scalise on Wednesday to be the next House speaker but struggled to quickly unite their deeply divided majority and elect the conservative in a public floor vote after the historic ousting of Rep. Kevin McCarthy from the job.

In private balloting at the Capitol, House Republicans narrowly pushed aside Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, the firebrand Judiciary Committee chairman, in favor of Scalise, the current majority leader. The Louisiana congressman, who is battling blood cancer, is seen as a hero to some after surviving a shooting on lawmakers at a congressional baseball game practice in 2017.

"We have a lot of work to do," Scalise said afterward.



Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., speaks after a closed-door meeting of House Republicans during which he was chosen as candidate for Speaker of the House on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023 in Washington.

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Associated Press
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Republicans nominate Steve Scalise to be House speaker

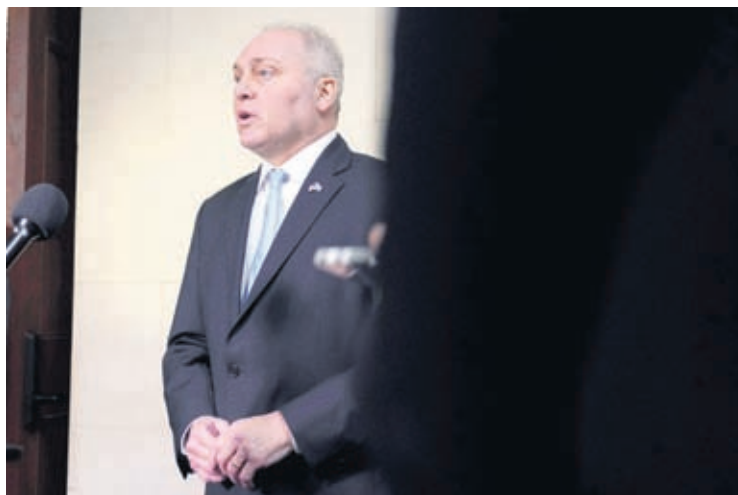
Continued from Front

A floor vote of the whole House was expected, but tensions are still running high among Republicans who have brought the House to a standstill with bitter infighting after McCarthy's stunning removal last week. The House was gavelled into a brief session, then broke indefinitely, with next steps uncertain.

It's an extraordinary moment of political chaos at a time of uncertainty at home and crisis abroad, moving into a second week without a House speaker. Just 10 months after Republicans swept to power aspiring to operate as a team and run government more like a business, the GOP majority has drifted far from that goal.

"We need to make sure we're sending a message to people all throughout the world, that the House is open to doing the people's business," Scalise said.

What's uncertain is whether lawmakers who supported Jordan, the hard-liner backed by Donald Trump,



Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., speaks to reporters after a closed-door meeting of House Republicans during which he was nominated as their candidate for Speaker of the House, on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023 in Washington.

Associated Press

will throw their support to Scalise in what is sure to be a close vote of the full House. Democrats are set to oppose the Republican nominee, easily nominating their leader, New York Rep. Hakeem Jeffries. Jordan said little after the vote, only that the GOP majority "is divided."

But Jordan did offer to

give Scalise a nominating speech on the floor, in what would be a show of support during a vote.

A centrist leader, Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., said, "We do need to get a speaker in place so we can govern."

"What we should have heard today after the vote count was, 'I will heartily support Steve. Let's get behind him,'" Bacon said. "We did not hear that."

Americans are watching. One-quarter of Republicans say they approve of the decision by a small group of Republicans to remove McCarthy as speaker. Three in 10 Republicans

believe it was a mistake, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

At the White House, presidential press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said, "We want to see the chaos be done with so that we can deliver for the American people."

The hard-right coalition of lawmakers that ousted McCarthy, R-Calif., has shown what an oversized role a few lawmakers can have in choosing his successor.

In a floor vote, Scalise would need to amass votes from almost all Republicans to overcome the Democratic opposition. Usually, the majority needed would be 218 votes, but there are

currently two vacant seats, dropping the threshold to 217.

Many Republicans want to prevent the spectacle of a messy House floor fight like the grueling January brawl when McCarthy became speaker.

Behind closed doors, the Republicans voted to set aside a proposed rules change that would have tried to ensure a majority vote before the nominee was presented for a full floor vote.

Without the rules change, the Republican lawmakers would be expected to agree to a majority-wins process. But several lawmakers announced they were not supporting Scalise. □

Donald Trump will speak in Florida next to Matt Gaetz, who set House speaker's ouster in motion



Former President Donald Trump addresses an audience during a campaign event, Monday, Oct. 9, 2023, in Wolfeboro, N.H.

Associated Press

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Former President Donald Trump is set to speak to some of his supporters near Mar-a-Lago Wednesday as he continues to dominate the Republican primary race for the White House despite four criminal cases against him. Trump is appearing Wednesday at a convention center in West Palm Beach, Florida, with U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, a congressional ally who, with other hard-right conservatives, engineered the ouster of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. The unprecedented action has kept Congress partly shuttered. Trump has used the power

vacuum to underline his lingering influence over the Republican Party. He has backed Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan to replace McCarthy. Jordan formed a close alliance with the former president, particularly during the effort to overturn the results of the 2020 election, which Trump lost to President Joe Biden. Two of the cases against Trump, in Washington and Georgia, are over his efforts to overturn the results. Trump has continued to travel to early primary states and has been spending much of his time focused on the four criminal indictments and several civil cases he is facing. He has put pressure on his Republican challengers to drop out of the 2024 primary race to help him defeat Biden. On Tuesday, he criticized GOP candidates for meeting with donors in an event hosted by Utah Sen. Mitt Romney, who unsuccessfully challenged then-President Barack Obama in 2012 as the Republican presidential nominee, and Paul Ryan, a former congressman who was the House speaker between 2015 and 2019. □

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The Social Security cost-of-living adjustment is coming -- but it won't be as big as this year's

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Looking ahead to retirement next spring, Karla Abbott finds comfort in the cost-of-living increase that millions of Social Security recipients get each year. But with consumer prices easing, the new boost will be far lower than this year's 8.7%. Analysts estimate the adjustment for 2024 will be around 3.2%.

After working 38 years as a nurse, the 61 years-old Sioux Falls, South Dakota, resident says she's been saving for retirement since she was 18. But she isn't certain that it will be enough, even with her Social Security benefits. Still, she said Social Security's annual cost-of-living increases provide some support as she and her husband plan out their non-working years. "The increases will be helpful, certainly to those of us who are still doing the math on retirement," she said.

Every year the agency adjusts its benefits, based on inflation. The 2024 Social Security cost of living increase — or COLA — is to be announced on Thursday.

The program pays roughly \$1.4 trillion in benefits to more than 71 million people each year, including low-income individuals with disabilities.

Charles Blahous, a former



Karla Abbott, 61, stands on the Augustana University campus, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Social Security trustee, said the annual COLA announcement is a reminder about the program's stressed finances. "This is an important system, and we need to restore its solvency, because if lawmakers can't do that, then Social Security and its basic financing design would have to be abandoned," he said.

The annual Social Security and Medicare trustees report released in March said the program's trust fund will be unable to pay full benefits beginning in 2033. If the trust fund is depleted, the government will be able to

pay only 77% of scheduled benefits, the report said.

The COLA is calculated according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index, but there are calls to use a different index — and for the agency to instead use the CPI-E, which is the index that measures price changes based on the spending patterns of the elderly — like health-care, food and medicine costs.

Mary Johnson, Social Security and Medicare policy analyst at the Senior Citizens League, says her organization supports the So-

cial Security Administration using whichever index is higher to best protect older people from inflation.

Any change to the calculation would require congressional approval. But with decades of inaction on Social Security and with the House at a standstill after the ouster of Speaker Kevin McCarthy, seniors and their advocates say they don't have confidence any sort of change will be approved soon.

"I feel like there's a lot of distraction in Washington," Abbott said. "Does anyone even care about what is

happening with Social Security? I have no clue why they can't come together on something so important."

As inflation is still high, he said anything added to his income "would be greatly appreciated."

Social Security is financed by payroll taxes collected from workers and their employers. The maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll taxes for 2023 is \$160,200, up from \$147,000 in 2022.

There have been legislative proposals to shore up Social Security, but they have not made it past committee hearings.

Jo Ann Jenkins, CEO of the AARP, said the organization "is urging Congress to work in a bipartisan way to keep Social Security strong and to provide American workers and retirees with a long-term solution that both current and future retirees can count on."

"Americans work hard to earn their Social Security, and it's only fair for them to get the money they deserve."

Johnson, the Senior Citizens League's analyst, said Congress "does not have any record of successfully and timely making changes to Social Security," and when there were reforms to the program in 1983 — "we were far less divided." □

Associated Press

Biden says the FTC's proposed ban on junk fees will help families and 'honest' businesses

By **JOSH BOAK**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Wednesday announced a proposed rule by the Federal Trade Commission to ban any hidden and bogus junk fees, which can mask the total cost of concert tickets, hotel rooms and utility bills.

Biden has made the removal of these fees a priority of his administration. The Democrat's effort has led to a legislative push and a

spate of initiatives aimed at helping consumers. Administration officials have said these additional costs can inflate prices and waste people's time.

"These junk fees may not matter to the wealthy, but they sure matter to working folks in homes like the one I grew up in," Biden said in remarks at the White House Rose Garden.

The president added that junk fees also make it "harder for honest businesses who are trying to do

the right thing." He noted that the crackdown is part of a broader effort that has included cooperation between the government and companies including Airbnb, Live Nation, Ticketmaster and SeatGeek.

The FTC proposal is being coupled with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau announcing that it will block large banks from charging junk fees to provide basic customer services such as checking account balances.



President Joe Biden delivers remarks on hidden junk fees in the Rose Garden of the White House, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

Lael Brainard, director of the White House National Economic Council, said research indicates that hidden fees can cause con-

sumers to pay as much as 20% more than had they known the total cost upfront and comparison shopped. □

A company cancels its plans to recover more Titanic artifacts. Its renowned expert died on the Titan

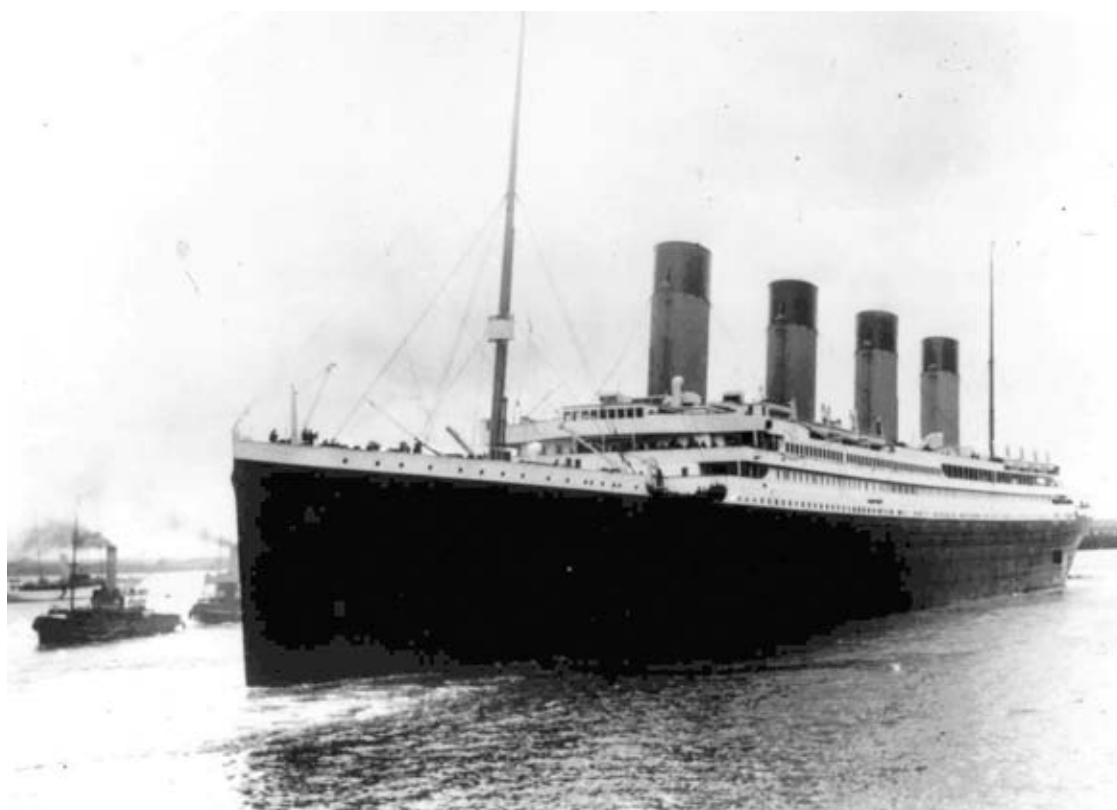
By BEN FINLEY
Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — The company that owns the salvage rights to the Titanic shipwreck has cancelled plans to retrieve more artifacts from the site because the leader of the upcoming expedition died in the Titan submersible implosion, according to documents filed in a U.S. District Court on Wednesday.

The decision could impact a looming court battle between the company and the U.S. government, which has been trying to stop the 2024 mission. U.S. attorneys have said the firm's original plans to enter the ship's hull would violate a federal law that treats the wreck as a gravesite.

Paul-Henri Nargeolet was the director of underwater research for RMS Titanic, Inc., the Georgia-based firm that recovers and exhibits Titanic artifacts. Nargeolet was lending his expertise to a separate company, OceanGate, when he and four others died on the Titan's final dive near the Titanic in June.

Before the tragic dive, RMST planned to take images inside and outside of the wreck. The firm also wanted to retrieve items from the debris field as well as freestanding objects within



The Titanic leaves Southampton, England, April 10, 1912, on her maiden voyage.

Associated Press

the sunken ocean liner. Nargeolet was supposed to be in charge. The former French navy officer had already completed 37 dives and supervised the recovery of about 5,000 Titanic artifacts. RMST's exhibits have displayed items ranging from silverware to a piece of the ship's hull. The company's original 2024 expedition plan also included possibly retrieving objects from the ship's famed Marconi room. That's where the Titanic's radio broadcast

increasingly frantic distress signals after the ocean liner hit an iceberg.

The messages in Morse code were picked up by other ships and receiving stations onshore, which helped to save the lives of about 700 people who fled in life boats. There were 2,208 passengers and crew on the Titanic's sole voyage from Southampton, England, to New York.

The company said Wednesday in its court filing that its plans now only include im-

aging at the wreck site and surveys to refine "future artifact recovery."

"Out of respect for P.H. Nargeolet and his family, and the other four people who perished so recently at the site, and their families, the company has decided that artifact recovery would not be appropriate at this time," the firm wrote. RMST also said it will not send another crewed submersible to the Titanic until "further investigation takes place regarding the cause

of the (OceanGate) tragedy." The U.S. Coast Guard is leading the probe into the Titan's implosion.

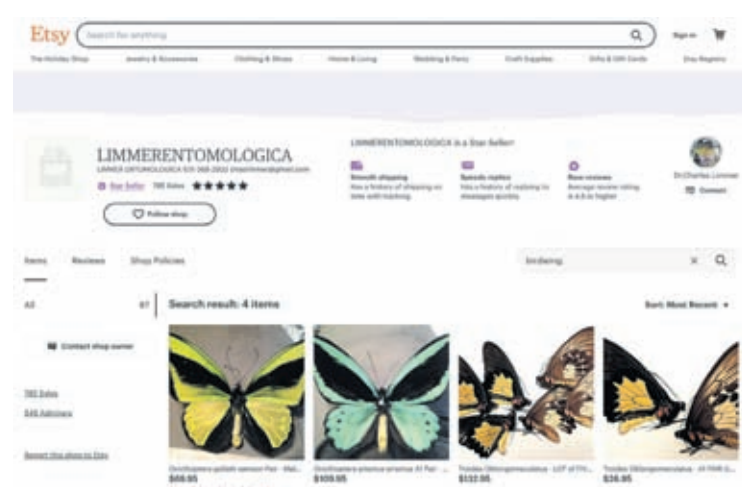
Meanwhile, it's unclear how the change in plans could impact RMST's budding legal fight with the U.S. government. The company's filing appears to suggest that it no longer plans to enter the ship's hull, which the government said would break the law.

A hearing was still scheduled for Friday afternoon in U.S. District Court in Norfolk, Virginia, which oversees Titanic salvage matters.

"Today's filing underscores that we take our responsibilities seriously," RMST CEO Jessica Sanders said in a statement. "In light of the OceanGate tragedy, the loss of our dear colleague Paul-Henri 'P.H.' Nargeolet, and the ongoing investigation, we have opted to amend our previous filing to only conduct unmanned imaging and survey work at this time," she said.

Lawyers for the U.S. government did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The court case hinges on federal law and a pact between the U.S. and Great Britain to treat the sunken Titanic as a memorial to the more than 1,500 people who died. □



This screengrab of the Etsy page of a seller going by "LIMMERENTOMOLOGICA" shows four birdwing specimens currently on sale online.

Associated Press

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Birdwing butterflies are among the rarest and largest to grace

the planet, their 10-inch (25.4-centimeter) wingspans flapping through the rainforests of Southeast Asia and Australia. Their sheer

Rare birdwing butterflies star in federal case against N.Y. man accused of trafficking insects

size can make them hard to miss. But the U.S. attorney's office in Brooklyn says Charles Limmer made tens of thousands of dollars over the past year by illegally trafficking flying insects, including endangered birdwings — whose numbers have fallen because of diminishing habitat and illegal poaching.

Trafficking of wildlife collectibles has become a serious and lucrative enterprise, despite a worldwide crackdown. On Wednes-

day, the same federal authorities in Brooklyn announced six-count indictments against two people, one from Alabama and the other from Georgia, for importing, transporting and possessing \$1.2 million in taxidermized birds and eggs. Federal prosecutors say the collection includes nearly 800 birds and about 2,600 eggs.

The two are accused of using sites such as eBay and Etsy to buy the mounted birds from around the

world, including from Germany to South Africa and Uruguay. The collection of birds included protected species of canaries, falcons and woodpeckers.

The six-count indictment against Limmer, a 75-year-old butterfly aficionado from Commack, New York, accuses him of working with overseas collaborators to smuggle some 1,000 lepidoptera, including some of the rarest and most endangered moths and butterflies in the world. □

As strikes devastate Gaza, Israel forms unity government

By JOSEPH KRAUSS and
WAFAA SHURAF

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu joined with a top political rival on Wednesday to create a war-time Cabinet overseeing the fight to avenge a stunning weekend attack by Hamas militants. In the sealed-off Gaza Strip ruled by Hamas, Palestinian suffering mounted as Israeli bombardment demolished neighborhoods and the only power plant ran out of fuel.

The new Cabinet establishes a degree of unity after years of bitterly divisive politics, and as the Israeli military appears increasingly likely to launch a ground offensive into Gaza. The war has already claimed at least 2,300 lives on both sides.

The Israeli government is under intense public pressure to topple Hamas after its militants stormed through a border fence Saturday and massacred hundreds of Israelis in their homes, on the streets and at an outdoor music festival.

In a televised address Wednesday night, Netanyahu detailed atrocities that took place during the attack, including boys and girls bound and shot in the head, people burned alive, women raped and soldiers who were beheaded. "Every Hamas member is a dead man," he said. "We will crush and destroy it."

Militants in Gaza are holding an estimated 150 people taken hostage from Israel — soldiers, men, women, children and older adults — and they have fired thousands of rockets into Israel over the past five days.

The Cabinet, which will focus only on issues of war, will be led by Netanyahu, Benny Gantz — a senior opposition figure and former defense minister — and current Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. A former chief of a staff and another government minister were named as "observer" members.

Still, Israel's political divisions remain. The country's chief



Smoke rises following Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023.

Associated Press

opposition leader, Yair Lapid, was invited to join the Cabinet but did not immediately respond to the offer. It appeared that the rest of Netanyahu's existing government partners, a collection of far-right and ultra-Orthodox parties, would remain in place to handle non-war issues.

Israel's increasingly destructive airstrikes in Gaza have flattened entire city blocks and left unknown numbers of bodies beneath debris. A ground offensive in Gaza, whose 2.3 million residents are densely packed into a tiny, coastal strip, would likely result in a surge of casualties for fighters on both sides.

Hamas launched a fresh barrage of rockets into Israel on Wednesday aimed at the southern town of Ashkelon.

Some 250,000 people have fled their homes in Gaza, most crowding into U.N. schools. Others sought the shrinking number of safe neighborhoods in the strip of land only 40 kilometers (25 miles) long, wedged among Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea.

After nightfall, Palestinians were plunged into pitch blackness in large parts of Gaza City and elsewhere after the territory's only power station ran out of fuel and shut down Wednesday. Only a few lights from private genera-

tors still glowed.

Israel on Sunday halted the entry of food, water, fuel and medicine into the territory. The sole remaining crossing from Egypt was shut down Tuesday after airstrikes hit nearby.

The Gaza Strip's biggest hospital, Al-Shifa, only has enough fuel to keep power on for three days, said Matthias Kannes, a Gaza-based official for Doctors Without Borders. The group said the two hospitals it runs in Gaza were running out of surgical equipment, antibiotics, fuel and other supplies. "We consumed three weeks worth of emergency stock in three days," Kannes said.

Ghassan Abu Sitta, a reconstructive surgeon at al-Shifa said he had 50 patients waiting to go to the operating room as more critical wounded are treated. "We're already beyond the capacity of the system to cope," he said. The health system "has the rest of the week before it collapses, not just because of the diesel. All supplies are running short."

The Palestinian Red Crescent said other hospitals' generators will run out in five days. Residential buildings, unable to store as much diesel, likely will go dark sooner.

Egypt and international groups have been calling for humanitarian corridors

to get aid into Gaza. Convoys stood loaded with fuel and food Wednesday on the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing, but were unable to enter Gaza, an Egyptian security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

In Gaza's Jabalia refugee camp, rescue workers and civilians carried men covered with blood and soot towards ambulances after strikes toppled buildings. Streets were left blanketed with metal, chunks of concrete and thick dust.

Medical teams and rescuers struggled to enter other areas where roads were too destroyed, including Gaza City's al-Karama district, where a "large number" were killed or wounded, according to the Hamas-run Interior Ministry. Strikes have killed at least four Red Crescent paramedics, the organization said.

The risk of the war spreading was evident Wednesday after the Iranian-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah fired anti-tank missiles at an Israeli military position and claimed to have killed and wounded troops.

The Israeli military confirmed the attack but did not comment on possible casualties. The Israeli army shelled the area in southern Lebanon where the attack

was launched.

U.S. President Joe Biden on Tuesday warned other countries and armed groups against entering the war. The U.S. is already rushing munitions and military equipment to Israel and has deployed a carrier strike group to the eastern Mediterranean as deterrence.

In the West Bank, Israeli settlers attacked a village south of Nablus, opening fire on Palestinians and killing three, the territory's health ministry said. More than two dozen Palestinians have died in fighting in the West Bank since the weekend.

Israel has mobilized 360,000 reservists, massed additional forces near Gaza and evacuated tens of thousands of residents from nearby communities.

Toppling Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007, would likely require prolonged ground fighting and reoccupying Gaza, at least temporarily. Even then, Hamas has a long history of operating as an underground insurgency in areas controlled by Israel.

Hamas said it launched its attack Saturday because Palestinians' suffering had become intolerable under unending Israeli military occupation and increasing settlements in the West Bank and a 16-year-long blockade in Gaza.

In the kibbutz of Be'eri near Gaza, Israeli troops were still removing the bodies of dead Hamas militants who stormed the community, killing more than 100 residents, then battled soldiers for nearly three days. Major General Itai Veruv told visiting journalists that the military found evidence of Hamas militants cutting throats of bound captives, lining up children and killing them and packing 15 teenage girls in a room before throwing a grenade inside. Shock, grief and demands for vengeance against Hamas are running high in Israel. Past conflicts with Hamas included heavy bombardments of Gaza but ended with the group still in power. □

Dominican Republic has partially reopened its border with Haiti. But a diplomatic crisis persists

By MARTÍN A. ALCÁNTARA
and DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

DAJABON, Dominican Republic (AP) — The Dominican Republic partially reopened its border with Haiti on Wednesday to limited commercial activity nearly a month after shuttering the frontier in a continuing spat over construction of a canal targeting water from a shared river.

Vendors in Dominican border cities are allowed to sell basic goods like food and medicine, but exporting electronic products and construction materials, including cement and metal rods, is prohibited.

Wednesday marked the first time since Sept. 15 that the border partially reopened, although Dominican President Luis Abinader maintained a ban on issuing visas to Haitian citizens that he implemented last month and will keep the border closed to all migrants, regardless of whether they're seeking entry for work, tourism, health or education purposes.

While the gates at the northern Dominican border city of Dajabon opened late Wednesday morning, the gates on the Haitian side remained closed, and it wasn't immediately clear why. Meanwhile, dozens of trucks and containers were



Dominican soldiers stand on the bridge that crosses the border between Haiti and Dajabon in the Dominican Republic, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023.

Associated Press

lined up nearby, filled with goods.

The Dominican border reopening was delayed after a pre-dawn fire at the main marketplace in Dajabon destroyed dozens of stalls. Authorities said they were investigating what caused the blaze.

The marketplace remained largely empty and quiet as a handful of vendors reopened their stalls nearly a month after they were forced to close.

"There's been a heavy loss here," said Santo Rodríguez, who sells pasta, butter, mayonnaise, ketchup

and other items in his stall and condemned the border closure. "How are you expected to survive?"

Rodríguez, who first opened his business in 1995 and earns some \$176 a week, said that despite Abinader promising to help Dominican business owners affected by the border closure, he hadn't received any aid.

The most recent diplomatic crisis stemmed from construction of a canal on the Haitian side that aims to collect water from the Massacre River that runs along the border that both coun-

tries share on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. The river is named after a bloody 18th-century battle between French and Spanish colonizers.

Haiti's government has said farmers urgently need the water after an extended drought withered crops in the nearby Maribaroux plain.

Meanwhile, Abinader has said construction of a canal violates a 1929 treaty and would divert water needed by Dominican farmers and affect wetlands in the area. Shortly after the spat began, Abinader ordered

officials to revive use of a nearby canal to collect water before the river enters Haitian territory.

On Monday, Haiti's government issued a statement saying the attempt to divert water from the Massacre River to "deprive Haitians of it" is "unacceptable and hostile." The statement stressed the need for dialogue and said the only suitable outcome would be an equal sharing of water resources, the normalization of relations between the two countries and a return to the free movement of people and goods.

"This project unleashed quite an exceptional movement of national unity that perhaps was not what Abinader expected," said Diego Da Rin, with the International Crisis Group. "The canal has become an almost historical point of honor."

Haitians want to make it clear that they are a nation that will not allow themselves to be humiliated by their neighbor."

Da Rin said Haitians in general appear willing to forego certain goods to support construction of the canal. The diplomatic crisis also appeared to be a boon for Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who has been "extremely unpopular," Da Rin said. □



A firefighter is silhouetted by the flames of a forest fire on the outskirts of Villa Carlos Paz, Argentina, Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023.

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Dozens of people were evacuated from their homes in Argentina's central Cordoba province on

Tuesday as wildfires grew amid an intense heat wave.

Images and video from the area showed massive

Evacuations are underway in Argentina's Cordoba province as wildfires grow amid heat wave

flames in hills surrounding populated areas as firefighters worked to combat the flames that had reached some homes in the region. It was not immediately clear how many homes had been affected by the flames.

A total of 960 firefighters were working to combat the wildfires with eight firefighting planes and two helicopters, the provincial government said Tuesday evening. Local media re-

ported that dozens of people had been evacuated. There was hope that rains expected Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning could help calm the fires that had spread rapidly due to strong winds. "I call on the population to respect the indications of the firefighters and authorities who are working in the affected areas," Cordoba Gov. Juan Schiaretti wrote on social media. "The most important thing is to save

lives, wherever evacuation is necessary, it will be done." There were five active wildfires in the region Tuesday, according to Argentina's National Fire Management Service.

Ulises Xarate, 27, has been detained accused of starting a fire Monday afternoon in an area close to the city of Villa Carlos Paz in the province's Punilla region, according to local media citing prosecutor Jorgelina Gómez. □



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Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for

many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in

the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional,



Current state of the Natural Bridge

there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the

"Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □



The Baby Natural Bridge



The Natural Bridge pre-collapse

Papiamentu words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a potting melt of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamentu above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamentu you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamentu means welcome, and is

probably the most famous Papiamentu word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamentu. At least, not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamentu means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing. When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like

the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamentu is no different. Since Papiamentu is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.
2. Bon tardi. In the af-

ternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day. 3. Bon nochi. You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamentu. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want

to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.


Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". □

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Rhythms Circus Company Aruba: putting Aruba's name on the world stage



Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!

In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday

and Friday starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom to our local audience as well as our visitors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of



its kind on the island.

America's Got Talent


Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an



accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.

Reservations and tickets


To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rccaruba. 



Aruba to me

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Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Renaissance Ocean Suites!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. These honorees were honored with certificates acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba
Mrs. Patricia Bofill from New York, United States.

Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba
Mr. Charles & Mrs. Lorraine Lobacz from Connecticut, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Renaissance Ocean Suites bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by Mrs. Bofill were:

- Aruba's warm and friendly people.
- Aruba beauty.



- "Spending time with friends and family."
- "Things to do!"
- "Sun, sand, and Sea."

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by Mr. & Mrs. Lobacz were:

- Aruba's nice sandy beaches.
- "Fun in the Sun!"

- Aruba people.
- Aruba's foods.
- "Spending time with friends and family."

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals



(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a

negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □

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History of fishing in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fishermen is Gregory Wernet.

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil-industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants.

As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head quarter and remains the fishermen's settlement. Sa-

vaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time.

The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.

Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The king-fish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds.

Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and some are being sold in the



market to local restaurants.

Fisherman Gregory Wernet

Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing. There they catch red snapper, grouper and amber-

jack. They usually fish for 15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known in Aruba as piskechi. The have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and 'Padrot' which they have at home.

The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it. □

Source: Etnia Nativa



Did you know about...

Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)



(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair,

bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a simi-



lar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com

for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □

Picture credits: aruba-travel-guide.com

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Mil. sch.
- 5 Film edit
- 11 Show up
- 12 Behold
- 13 Physics amount
- 14 They have titles
- 15 Black-mailed
- 17 Greek vowel
- 18 Like a judge
- 22 Quiver unit
- 24 Trap
- 25 New England catch
- 26 Vault part
- 27 Comic tribute
- 30 Diamond side
- 32 TV awards
- 33 Rap's Dr. —
- 34 Humiliating failures
- 38 "Jane Eyre" writer
- 41 Browser button
- 42 Opera's Stratas
- 43 "What's — for me?"
- 44 Fixed
- 45 Chow

DOWN

- 1 High point
- 2 Cajole
- 3 1928 Olympics host
- 4 Explorer Hernando
- 5 Place for a coin
- 6 Major nations
- 7 2012 Olympics host
- 8 Mamie's husband
- 9 Sedan or SUV
- 10 UFO pilots
- 16 Unrefined
- 19 1992 Olympics host

C	U	B	A		S	P	A	R	E	S
O	N	U	S		P	A	C	I	N	O
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Yesterday's answer

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 20 Huron neighbor | 31 Jughead's friend |
| 21 Owed amount | 35 Rosary unit |
| 22 Farm unit | 36 Give off |
| 23 Hotel offering | 37 Workout units |
| 28 2000 Olympics host | 38 "Dyna-mite" K-pop group |
| 29 Dreaded fly | 39 Workout unit |
| 30 Govt. health watchdog | 40 Singer Rita |

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
15					14					
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		17				18		19	20	21
22	23					24				
25								26		
27			28	29		30	31			
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			34		35				36	37
38	39	40						41		
42								43		
44								45		

10-12

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-12

CRYPTOQUOTE

TAD WFWZQDCHTJ DCID HM
NIBWE BIT LW BCITJWE. LRD
TADCHTJ BIT LW BCITJWE
RTDHP HD HM NIBWE.
— OIGWM LIPEXHT

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE IS ALWAYS LIGHT, IF ONLY WE'RE BRAVE ENOUGH TO SEE IT, IF ONLY WE'RE BRAVE ENOUGH TO BE IT. — AMANDA GORMAN

Social media is awash in misinformation about Israel-Gaza war

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

While Twitter has always struggled with combatting misinformation about major news events, it was still the go-to place to find out what's happening in the world. But the Israel-Hamas war has underscored how the platform now transformed into X has become not only unreliable but is actively promoting falsehoods.

Experts say that under Elon Musk the platform has deteriorated to the point that it's not just failing to clamp down on misinformation but is favoring posts by accounts that pay for its blue-check subscription service, regardless of who runs them.

If such posts go viral, their blue-checked creators can be eligible for payments from X, creating a financial incentive to post whatever gets the most reaction — including misinformation.

Ian Bremmer, a prominent foreign policy expert, posted on X that the level of disinformation on the Israel-Hamas war "being algorithmically promoted" on the platform "is unlike anything I've ever been exposed to in my career as a political scientist."

And the European Union's digital enforcer wrote to Musk about misinformation and "potentially illegal content" on X, in what's shaping up to be one of the first major tests for the 27-nation bloc's new digital rules aimed at cleaning up social media platforms.

While Musk's social media site is awash in chaos, rivals such as TikTok, YouTube and Facebook are



Palestinians inspect the rubble of the Yassin Mosque destroyed after it was hit by an Israeli airstrike at Shati refugee camp in Gaza City, early Monday, Oct. 9, 2023.

Associated Press

also coping with a flood of unsubstantiated rumors and falsehoods about the conflict, playing the usual whack-a-mole that emerges every time a news event captivates the world's attention.

"People are desperate for information and social media context may actively interfere with people's ability to distinguish fact from fiction," said Gordon Pennycook, an associate professor of psychology at Cornell University who studies misinformation.

For instance, instead of asking whether something is true, people might focus on whether something is surprising, interesting or even likely to make people angry — the sorts of posts more likely to elicit strong reactions and go viral.

The liberal advocacy group Media Matters found that since Saturday, subscribers to X's premium service shared at least six misleading videos about the war. This included out-of-context videos and old ones purporting to be recent — that earned millions of views.

TikTok, meanwhile, is "almost as bad" as X, said Kollina Koltai, a researcher at the investigative collective Bellingcat. She previously worked at Twitter on Community Notes, its crowd-sourced fact-checking service.

But unlike X, TikTok has never been known as the No. 1 source for real-time information about current events.

"I think everyone knows to take TikTok with a grain of salt," Koltai said. But on X "you see people actively profiteering off of misinformation because of the incentives they have to spread the content that goes viral — and misinformation tends to go viral."

Emerging platforms, meanwhile, are still finding their footing in the global information ecosystem, so while they might not yet be targets for large-scale disinformation campaigns, they also don't have the sway of larger, more established rivals.

A post late Monday from X's safety team said: "In the past couple of days, we've seen an increase in daily active users on @X in the conflict area, plus there have been more than 50 million posts globally focusing on the weekend's terrorist attack on Israel by Hamas. As the events continue to unfold rapidly, a cross-company leadership group has assessed this moment as a crisis requiring the highest level of response." □

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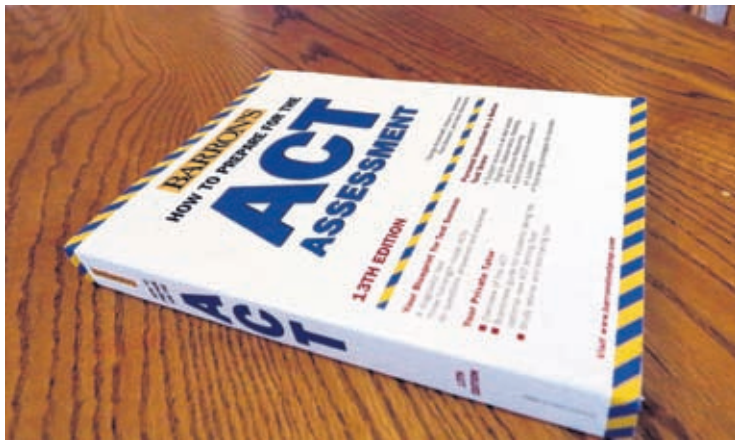
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ACT test scores for U.S. students drop to new 30-year low



An ACT Assessment preparation book is seen, April 1, 2014, in Springfield, Ill.

Associated Press

By CHEYANNE MUMPHREY
AP Education Writer

High school students' scores on the ACT college admissions test have dropped to their lowest in more than three decades, showing a lack of student preparedness for college-level coursework, according to the nonprofit organization that administers the test. Scores have been falling for six consecutive years, but the trend accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students in the class of 2023 whose scores were reported Wednesday were in their first year of high school when the virus reached the U.S.

"The hard truth is that we are not doing enough to ensure that graduates are truly ready for postsecondary success in college and career," said Janet Godwin, chief executive officer for the nonprofit ACT. The average ACT compos-

ite score for U.S. students was 19.5 out of 36. Last year, the average score was 19.8. The average scores in reading, science and math all were below benchmarks the ACT says students must reach to have a high probability of success in first-year college courses. The average score in English was just above the benchmark but still declined compared to last year.

Many universities have made standardized admissions tests optional amid criticism that they favor the wealthy and put low-income students at a disadvantage. Some including the University of California system do not consider ACT or SAT scores even if submitted. Godwin said the scores are still helpful for placing students in the right college courses and preparing academic advisors to better support students.

"In terms of college readiness, even in a test-optional environment, these kinds of objective test scores about academic readiness are incredibly important," Godwin said.

At Denise Cabrera's high school in Hawaii, all students are required to take the ACT as juniors. She said she would have taken it anyway to improve her chances of getting into college.

"Honestly, I'm unsure why the test was ever required because colleges can look at different qualities of the students who are applying outside of just a one-time test score," said Denise, a 17-year-old senior at Waianae High School.

She's looking at schools including the California Institute of Technology, which implemented a five-year moratorium on the standardized test score requirements during the pandemic. Denise said she knows the school is not consider-

ing scores but she doesn't want to limit her options elsewhere. □

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Narcotics Anonymous
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Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
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Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

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Horror icon John Carpenter on being a college dropout, 'Barbie' and telling true scary stories

By KRYSTA FAURIA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — While John Carpenter has become synonymous with fictional horror storytelling, the 75-year-old director and composer is dipping his toe into true life terrors with his new show, "John Carpenter's Suburban Screams."

The legendary director, known for genre-defining classics including "Halloween" and "The Thing," sat down with The Associated Press for a wide-ranging interview ahead of the release of the unscripted anthology series, which fittingly hits Peacock on Friday, Oct. 13. The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: I know you've talked about how film school helped you understand the plumbing of making movies. But it's interesting because now with education we have so much more access to information thanks to the internet.

CARPENTER: Tell me about it. It's all different now. Oh, everything is different. The technology of the business is different. The business is different. I would be starting over completely green if I had to right now. I learned everything about the camera and editing and sound and all that stuff. All that stuff has changed. It's all different.



Director John Carpenter poses for a portrait at his office, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

The sound now is like, 'What the hell is that? Where's the NAGRA?' At USC, we had a lab where you could do processing. We don't process any more. It's all digital.

AP: I'm curious if you had any reluctance at the time about dropping out or if it was like full steam ahead.

CARPENTER: No, I knew what I was doing. I just wanted to get out of there, get on with my career.

AP: I have noticed that a lot of recent academic literature has been written about horror movies, even outside

of film studies. For so long it was thought of as kind of low brow. Now, scholars are writing about it. And we're seeing this interest in elevated horror, directors like Jordan Peele.

CARPENTER: His movies are pretty damn good. The UFO movie is great. I loved it. I see horror as a genre that gets reinvented by every generation to fit their generation. You know, I did it with mine. Tobe Hooper and George Romero reinvented it for theirs. It always happens.

AP: But some people still

turn their nose up at it.

CARPENTER: They still look down on it, don't they? We've always been looked down on. We're close to being pornographers. Just a little above, you know? Just a bit.

AP: Have you been playing any good video games lately?

CARPENTER: I've been playing one for a long time, the "Fallout" game. I'm looking forward to the new "Assassin's Creed" game. I don't know if it's going to be any good, but I'll check it out.

AP: I think video games are

having a similar kind of moment. They were written off for a long time, and now they're having a kind of renaissance.

CARPENTER: Roger Ebert said video games will never be art. And I thought, "Wait a minute now. It is." In its own way, it's art.

AP: So now you are pivoting to real scary stories — things that actually happened. Can you talk a little bit about what prompted you to make this sort of shift in your storytelling?

CARPENTER: Well, I've never done this before — true stories that involve frightening things. True stories of killers are a staple of television. But what we're concentrating on in this series are the survivors. You know, we don't care so much about the perpetrators. The thing about "Dahmer," the character that I remember the most is Niecy Nash — the character from the survivor's point of view. And that's something I haven't done. I also haven't done a true-life deal, except for Elvis, which — that doesn't count. But I also remote directed this series and that's fantastic. The cast and crew were in Prague, and I'm sitting in my living room. I have a full cup of coffee in my hand saying, "Do this, do that." That's fabulous. I cannot wait to do it again that way. □



Keith Urban performs during the 2023 CMA Fest on Friday, June 9, 2023, at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

By MARIA SHERMAN

AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Country superstar Keith Urban

and Kix Brooks of powerhouse duo Brooks & Dunn will be inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of

Keith Urban shares the secret to a great song

Fame on Wednesday night at Nashville's Music City Center. Urban, a four-time Grammy Award winning musician, is being celebrated at the 53rd anniversary gala for hits such as "But for the Grace of God," "Who Wouldn't Wanna Be Me" and "Days Go By."

Kix Brooks' songwriting in Brooks & Dunn helped shaped the iconic '90s country music sound, with tracks like the Grammy-nominated "Brand New Man," "You're Gonna Miss Me When I'm Gone" and "Only in America."

Other inductees include Casey Beathard and David Lee Murphy, in the contemporary songwriter category, and Rafe Van Hoy in the veteran songwriter category. When asked to share the secret behind great songwriting in advance of the ceremony, Urban told The Associated Press over the phone: "It's one of the most elusive things. Some days it just flows and other days, there's nothing. I just always hope it's not a day where I show up to somebody important to write with and nothing comes in."

Urban says he's learned over the years that if the inspiration to write a song doesn't hit one day, it's best to be kind to yourself.

"Just be in the moment and flow. If it's there, it's there. If it's not, it's not. But there's a real balance, I think, of inspiration and craft," he said. "It's a blend of those two and then a whole bunch of mysticism all at the same time."

Simply put: There's no equation. "It's alchemy. You're making something where there was nothing," he continued. □

Ovechkin at 38 resumes his pursuit of Gretzky's NHL goals record, 73 back going into the season

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**

AP Hockey Writer

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) —

Multiple times over their years playing together with the Washington Capitals, Alex Ovechkin told Tom Wilson he's never going to change how he trains.

"He's stubborn," Wilson recalled. "He's Ovi through and through."

Still, Wilson acknowledged, Ovechkin has adapted his training regimen and preparation as well as, if not better than, anyone in the NHL as he has climbed the NHL career goals list, where he is now second behind only Wayne Gretzky. Now 38, old and gray by hockey standards, Ovechkin has stayed on top of his game long enough to reach 822 goals, just 73 from passing Gretzky's record that long seemed unapproachable. "Everybody in the sports world is on a pretty incredible ride right now watching him take a run at this," Wilson said. "You feel it. You want him to do it."

Ovechkin has scored at least 40 goals in each of the last five 82-game seasons, a testament to his consistency and durability. He has no realistic milestones to reach this season, but just about everybody from his teammates and coaches to former oppo-



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8) during an NHL preseason hockey game against the Detroit Red Wings, Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

nents expect the Russian superstar to keep doing what he does: score goals in bunches.

"Every year, people wonder if this is the year that he's not going to be able to score," Capitals winger T.J. Oshie said. "I just don't doubt him anymore. I think he's going to be great like he always is, and I think he's going to lead us off like he usually does."

Ovechkin is coming off a season in which he was hampered by injury and missed four games after the death of his father. He hopes the injury is behind him, like others around one of the oldest teams in the

league, and is ready to get back to playing after his longest offseason in nearly a decade.

The first several weeks of the season will be a good indicator of how strong a chance Ovechkin has at catching Gretzky. History is on his side: Ovechkin has averaged 0.70 goals per game in October, more than any other month.

"You prepare yourself for a long year," Ovechkin said this week. "First couple games is going to be hard because you don't get that game rhythm and intensity in games in a long time. But you just have to fight it. You have to do your best to feel

good."

The Capitals are trying to do their best to contend after missing the playoffs for the first time since 2014 and put Ovechkin in position to challenge Gretzky. They have a new coach in Spencer Carbery who wants to play with faster pace and create scoring chances, which sounds like just the recipe for Ovechkin piling up goals.

"We'll work to figure out how to generate as many scoring chances (and) looks as possible for Alex Ovechkin," Carbery said. "I expect (to) put him in spots to set him up for success offensively, and that's what I imagine

he'll continue to do."

That starts with playing Ovechkin alongside long-time running mate Nicklas Backstrom, perhaps in Washington's season opener Friday against Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and the rival Pittsburgh Penguins. It's familiarity that Carbery hopes gives the Capitals some continuity out of the gate; Ovechkin and Backstrom have played together a lot over their 16 years together.

"We've been together for all his career and my career," Ovechkin said. "I think the chemistry we have through all those years, it's going to help us."

Backstrom said at the start of training camp that Ovechkin looks great and expressed no doubt about another productive season. "Ovi's Ovi," Backstrom said. "He's always going to get it done. That's the kind of player he is, and that's who he is."

Fellow Swede Henrik Lundqvist, the goaltender who's given up the second-most goals to Ovechkin at 24, sure isn't betting against Gretzky's record getting broken. The former New York Rangers star, now a TNT analyst, is finally getting the chance to enjoy watching Ovechkin put the puck in the net. □

Dimitrov rallies to beat Alcaraz in Shanghai

SHANGHAI (AP) — Grigor Dimitrov upset second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals at the Shanghai Masters.

Dimitrov, who hadn't beaten the former No. 1 in their three previous meetings, was crisp from both wings and used his backhand drop shot to keep Alcaraz off balance. The Bulgarian struck 29 winners and 10 aces and rallied after relinquishing a 5-3 lead in the first set to reach his 17th Masters quarterfinal.

"I stayed in the match, that was the first thing, especially after the first set," Dimi-

trov said. "After the second break in the second set I think I understood his service games and was able to put more balls in and read his serve a bit better. "I think in the third set it was a bit of cat-and-mouse. I think we both played a solid set. He made a few errors and I was very solid and served well when I had to."

Dimitrov will next meet 22nd-seeded Nicolas Jarry, who beat wild-card entry Diego Schwartzmann 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 to make the last eight of a Masters tournament for the first time.

Also, Ugo Humbert elimi-

nated J.J. Wolf 6-1, 6-2 in a dominant 58-minute victory. The 32nd-seeded Frenchman did not face a break point and had 17 winners to Wolf's four.

"It was a great performance from me, I played a great level," Humbert said. "I'm very proud. I was really focused from the beginning until the end. Last year I was in Challengers so it's a great improvement. It's daily work and we built something good. I'm very happy to be in the quarters here." Humbert will next play fifth-seeded Andrey Rublev, who beat No. 12 Tommy Paul 7-5, 7-5. □



Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria serves against Carlos Alcaraz of Spain during the 4th round of the men's singles match in the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023.

Associated Press

The Dolphins and the 49ers are off to record-threatening offensive starts

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Pro Football Writer

Kyle Shanahan and Mike McDaniel spent years together scheming ways to exploit NFL defenses.

Now split apart with McDaniel in his second season coaching Miami and Shanahan in Year 7 in San Francisco, the two offensive coaches have their teams threatening records with their early season domination.

The 49ers and Dolphins rank 1-2 in several key offensive categories, from scoring to yards per play to success rate to passer rating to first downs.

Miami is the second team in NFL history to average at least 500 yards of offense a game through five games, with its 513.6 beating out



Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa (1) listens to head coach Mike McDaniel during the second half of an NFL football game against the New York Giants, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

the previous record of 505.4 set by the Rams in 2000.

The Dolphins are scoring 36.2 points per game for the best total at this point of the season in eight years, as defenses have had no an-

swer for the speed of players like Tyreek Hill, De'Von Achane, Jaylen Waddle or Raheem Mostert.

Miami has seven of the nine fastest speeds for ball carriers tracked by NFL Next-

Gen stats, led by Hill's 22.01 mph on a 64-yard catch last week. Hill also reached a speed of 20.95 mph on a 69-yard TD against the Giants last week that gave him five TDs on the season and tied him with Lance Alworth for fifth place with his 19th career TD of at least 60 yards. Achane has been on a record-setting pace of his own, with his seven TDs in his first four games ranking second in NFL history to Bill Paschal's eight in 1943.

Achane has rushed for 100 yards and a TD in three straight games, tied for the second-longest streak ever for a rookie since the merger behind Franco Harris' six-game streak in 1972. He is averaging 12.1 yards per carry on the season.

Achane will have to wait a

bit to have a chance to tie Harris' streak after getting placed on injured reserve Wednesday with a knee injury.

Mostert leads the NFL with eight TDs, making the Dolphins the second team ever with three players with at least five TDs from scrimmage in the first five games of a season. New England did it in 2011 with Rob Gronkowski, Wes Welker and BenJarvus Green-Ellis.

The Niners have been more dominant overall, becoming the ninth team in the Super Bowl era to start 5-0 with a point differential of plus-99 or better. Six of the previous eight teams to do it made the Super Bowl, with Washington (1991), the Rams (1999) and Saints (2009) winning it all.

San Francisco is the sixth team to score at least 30 points in each of the first five games of a season and its eight-game regular-season streak of scoring at least 30 points ranks fifth-longest ever.

Quarterback Brock Purdy and running back Christian McCaffrey have fueled this run, with Purdy throwing a career-high four TD passes and McCaffrey running for a score in a 42-10 win over Dallas.

Purdy has won all 10 of his regular-season starts, with his 121.1 rating in those starts the best ever through 10 starts. He has completed 70.4% of his passes — second best to Chad Pennington's 70.8% — through 10 starts. Only Ben Roethlisberger has won more consecutive starts (15) to begin his career.

McCaffrey has TDs in 14 consecutive games in the regular season and playoffs, tied with Emmitt Smith for the fourth-longest streak ever. Only Lenny Moore (17 games), O.J. Simpson (15) and John Riggins (15) have longer streaks.

PITIFUL PATRIOTS

Bill Belichick appears to be set to eclipse the NFL coaching record for losses well before he becomes the winningest coach ever the way things are going for New England early this season. □



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